



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

March 6, 2008

David Carie
Fisheries Management Biologist
Mid-Columbia River FRO
7501 Icicle Rd.
Leavenworth, Washington 98826

Dear Mr. Carie,

I'm writing in response to your recent request for an extension of permit 1300 issued under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Permit 1300 authorizes the USFWS to operate the artificial propagation program of endangered upper Columbia River (UCR) spring Chinook salmon at Winthrop National Fish Hatchery (NFH).

As you note in your letter, there are good reasons to delay, temporarily, the processing of a new ESA permit for the spring Chinook salmon program at Winthrop NFH. A recent program review by the USFWS, the collaborative process underway with the Federal Columbia River Hydropower System (FCRPS), and the Hatchery Scientific Review Group process that is just starting in the upper Columbia River basin are expected to provide valuable input into how hatchery programs are operated and managed into the future. This information should be considered in a new ESA permit application. In the interim, the USFWS does not intend to alter the program until after the review processes are complete and the impacts to ESA-listed species would be expected to remain similar to the impacts considered and analyzed in the Biological Opinion issued with permit 1300.

Therefore, NMFS agrees that it is appropriate to extend the effective duration of permit 1300 for the operation of the spring Chinook salmon program at Winthrop NFH with the expectation that a new permit application will be prepared and submitted promptly after the future program operational recommendations are made.

Kris Petersen is our staff contact for upper Columbia River hatcheries, please contact her at (503) 230-5409, if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Rob Jones
HIF Branch Chief



cc: Kris Petersen, NMFS
Robert Bayley, NMFS